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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/525,941	02/28/2005	Ulrike Licht	266110US0XPCT	2567
22850	7590	12/16/2005	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			NILAND, PATRICK DENNIS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1714	
DATE MAILED: 12/16/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/525,941

Applicant(s)

LICHT ET AL.

Examiner

Patrick D. Niland

Art Unit

1714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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1. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

A. The instant claims 1-4 recite "obtainable". It is unclear what products made by other processes are intended to be encompassed by the instant claims due to the recitation of "obtainable". This is further complicated by the lack of specification as to what the polyadducts are supposed to be and what functional groups might be on the addition polymer monomers and polymers. It would require undue experimentation to determine which hybrid dispersions fall within the scope of those of the instant claims therefore.

The following are supporting descisions for rejecting "obtainable" and similar terms as indefinite.

1. Atlantic Thermoplastics Co. Inc. v Faytex Corp. 23 USPQ 2nd 1481 (1486).

In footnote 6, on page 1486, referring to *Cochrane v Badische Aniline and Soda Fabrik* (BASF), 11 US 293, the court stated "...because artificial alizarine can take different forms, BASF's claim would be indefinite unless limited to the described process".

The claim referred to is

"Artificial alizarine produced form anthracene or its derivatives by either of the methods described herein or any other method producing a like result."

2. Ex parte Tanksley 26 USPQ 2nd 1389

"A claim is indefinite if undue experimetnation is involved to determine boundaries of protection".

This rationale is applicable to polymers obtainable by a stated process because any variation in any parameter within the scope of the claimed process would change the polymer produced. One who made or used a polymer made by a process other than the process recited in the claim would have to produce polymers using all possible parameters within the scope of the claims (temperature, pressure, diluents, component ratios, feed ratios, etc.) and then extensively analyze each product, to determine if his polymer was obtainable by a process within the claimed process.

3. Purdue Research v Watson 1959 CD 124 (Dist Ct) affirmed by CCPA 120 USPQ 521.

"Preparable by" was held to not particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

"When one has produced a composition of matter where it is not possible to define its characteristics which make it inventive except by reference to the process by which it is produced, one is permitted to so claim the composition produced by the process referred to in the claims. When the composition is thus claimed in terms of the process of its preparation, the product cannot be defined in such a manner as to assert a monopoly on the product by whatever means produced.

B. It is unclear if the percentage of the instant claims 1, 3, 4, 7, and 9 are based on weight, moles, or some other basis.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-15, and 18-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 10018601 as translated by US Pat. Application Pub. No. 2003/0143414 Bendix et al..

Examples 1-3 of sections [00115] through [0125] disclose addition polymerizing monomers in the presence of blocked isocyanates and water using miniemulsion conditions at temperatures of 70-80C (section [0118]) and 130C (section [0120] foot note d). At these temperatures, by the equilibrium of the deblocking reaction, some of the NCO is expected to have deblocked and reacted with water in the emulsion or OH groups of the addition polymer which will be a polyurethane "polyadduct". As the NCO groups are blocked at room temperature, it is expected that less than 5% or less than 40% of them reacted by any basis. The resulting product falls within the scope of the instant claims 1-5. The proportions are expected to be within the broad range of the instant claim 8 necessarily and inherently. The method of Bendix falls within the scope of the instant claims 9-10 and 12-15. The binder of claims 15-17 and the coated substrates and the necessary coating method read on the instant claims 18-21.

5. Claims 6, 11, and 16-17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

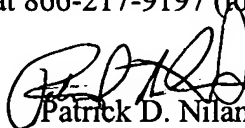
There is not motivation to perform the inventions of the instant claims 6, 11, and 16-17 in the prior art nor to modify Bendix's invention into the inventions of these claims.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick D. Niland whose telephone number is 571-272-1121. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 10 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan, can be reached on 571-272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Patrick D. Niland
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1714